REMARKS

Claims 2 through 14 are now pending in this application. In response to the Office Action of March 1, 2004, claim 1 has been cancelled and replaced with new claim 14. Claims 2 through 13 have been amended to change their dependencies from claim 1 to claim 14 and to be consistent with claim 14. Care has been taken to avoid the introduction of new matter. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully solicited.

Claim 1 has been rejected under the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112. The Office Action expressed confusion as to the extent of preamble in the claim and pointed out phrases lacking clear antecedent bases. It was also noted that claim 1 is a single means claim. In response claim 1 has been cancelled and replaced with new independent claim 14. Claim 14 recites the following preamble: a network system connectable to a remote client and electronic equipment. The body of the claim recites two elements that are comprised by the network system. Each of these elements is recited in means plus function format.

The first recited means is the command interpretation means. A file transfer protocol command received via communication protocol from a client by the command interpretation means is interpreted as a command for file transfer protocol operation. The command interpretation means also recognizes a specific character string in a file name field of the file transfer protocol command as an instruction command for a specific operation.

The second recited means is the control signal generating means. In response to recognition by the command interpretation means of the specific character string in the file name field of the file transfer protocol command, the control signal generating means generates a control instruction for a specific operation of the electronic equipment.

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The above described claimed subject matter is supported by the original specification, for example, in the description at page 5. Claims 2 through 11 have been amended to change their dependencies from claim 1 to claim 14 and further amended, where appropriate, to change the language to be consistent with that of claim 14. It is submitted that claims 2 through 14 clearly recite the invention and comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112.

Claims 1, 2 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Sadaji document. Claims 3, 4 and 6 through 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sadaji in view of U.S. patent 6,369,909 (Shima). Reconsideration of the claims as now amended and in light of the following comments is respectfully requested.

As described above, independent claim 14 requires that the command interpretation means, upon receipt of a file transfer protocol command from the client, interpret a character string in the file name of the command. It is respectfully submitted that the conclusion in the Office Action that Sadaji operates in this manner is incorrect.

An English language translation of Sadaji is submitted herewith. Based on the entire reference disclosure, the English language abstract, upon which the Office Action consideration was based, is explained as follows. The purpose, as stated in the abstract, is to call a false file name by an FTP LIST command. The false file name designates the status of a printer. That is, each printer status is associated with a particular file name. As the printer status changes, the system changes the file name to the associated false file name, as previously determined. The false file name associated with the current printer status is stored. In response to a FTP LIST command received from the client, the system performs the FTP protocol operation; that is, it provides a list of the stored file names to the client. The client can determine the current status

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of the printer by recognizing the false file name as one of those that have been previously been determined, respectively, to correspond to a printer status.

Sadaji does not disclose receiving a file name from the client. Sadaji does not disclose that the system receives from the client any instruction other than an FTP protocol operation command. As the false file name is changed by the system in accordance with the status of the printer, it should be apparent that it would make no sense that the disclosed operation of Sadaji would include specification of a false file name in the LIST command sent by the client. It is submitted, therefore, that it would not have been obvious from the teachings of Sadaji to provide a means for interpreting a client FTP command and recognizing a specific character string in the file name field as an instruction for a specific operation of electronic equipment, as required by claims 2 through 14. Shima, which has been relied upon solely for disclosing hypertext protocol, has no bearing on this distinguishing claim feature. The limitations added by claims 2 through 13 are recognized in the Office Action as not disclosed by Sadaji. It is submitted that the conclusion that each of those claimed features would have been obvious provisions in Sadaji, without reliance on objective evidence, is insufficient to support a rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103.
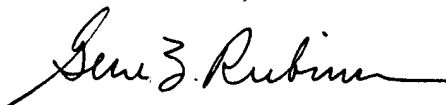
Accordingly, allowance of the application is respectfully solicited. To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please

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charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of

time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

MCDERMOTT, WILL & EMERY

Gene Z. Rubinson
Registration No. 33,351

600 13th Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20005-3096
(202) 756-8000 GZR:lnm
Facsimile: (202) 756-8087
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